

## Horticulture

### BIRD SLAUGHTER IS COSTLY

Direct Connection Between Increase of Insect Pest and Killing Off of Little Songsters.

Dr. William T. Hornaday, director of the New York Zoological park, estimates that if the bird population of this country was as large today as it was 60 years ago, it would mean a saving of \$250,000,000 to American farmers. There is a direct connection, in his opinion, between the multiplication of insect pests, which are among the gravest problems of modern agriculture, and the slaughter of migratory birds.

The most common orchard visitant of the woodpecker tribe is the red headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). Generally speaking he is the most sociable of all the bird folks, frequenting orchards, parks, shade trees, and the wooded districts near farms. This tree surgeon makes a nest near the summit of some dead topped tree where he and his wife rear their brood of ten to twelve healthy, hungry youngsters, each of them requiring, nay, demanding to be fed. Practically all this bird's food is obtained by boring. It is impossible to even guess at the number of noxious insects destroyed by them in a season. A pair of them nested in a dead cottonwood near my uncle's orchard in Yakima valley one year, and I watched them one day through a pair of glasses when the young were about half grown, says a



Golden-Winged Woodpecker.

writer in an exchange. The two birds made ninety-six trips in one hour to the tree, each time carrying a worm. It is pretty safe to calculate that ninety-six apples were saved in that hour, practically a box, worth, say, one dollar. If the birds worked ten hours per day they were worth to my uncle ten dollars, or in three weeks the young were in the nest \$210. Can you afford to kill a woodpecker?

#### Pruning Roses.

Leave your roses alone for the winter and prune next spring after the frost is all gone, says American Gardening. Then you may also thin out some of the old growths, if too thick, and shorten back to within two or three eyes of the old wood growths made this season.

### HANDLING THE FLOWER POTS

Box With Castors Attached Will Be Found of Great Convenience When Cleaning Room.

(By I. M. SHEPLER.)

A box for plants resting on castors may easily be drawn away from the window on cool nights in winter, and pushed back the next morning.

These castors are also a convenience when sweeping about the window. Any woman who keeps house-plants in her rooms can, herself, make two or three window-boxes, legs and all, picked up from where carpenters are building.

These boxes, of course, are used mainly in windows that are kept for the saving of plants for spring, and yet they can contain an assortment of



Removing Plant From Pot.

flowers, which, banked back of a window, give an effective picture of beauty to the passer-by as well as to the inmates of the room.

For a small window, and one from which you must get light for the room, be sparing of the plants. There is nothing pretty in a dark room, the cause of which is the window literally hung and placed full of all manner of foliage.

It is such a mistake to fill up a window so full of plants and vines in the winter that one can neither get light for reading nor sight of the prettier world outside. A few plants in a small window, artistically arranged, is a much happier scheme.

And is there anything more dismal than a window stuck full from top to bottom of little green cuttings in tin cans or any old pot? Where is the beauty?

### LATE WORK IN THE ORCHARD

Thorough Spraying After Rotten Fruit and Other Refuse Is Cleaned Up Is Recommended.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)

After all rotten apples, pruned limbs and other refuse have been cleaned up about the orchard, the trees should be given a thorough spraying.

If possible, one should choose a warm day for this operation, so most of the insect pests, crawling out to lie in the sunlight, will be exposed to the action of the spraying solution.

Special attention should be given old knots, rough and rotten spots about the trees, as in these places is where the fruit pests deposit their eggs for next season's crop and at the same time many of these pests themselves are harboring in these safe retreats till winter is over.

There are several reasons for this fall spraying. It not only destroys the insect pests, but their eggs also, which have been laid.

After the spraying the trees will be left healthy and clean and free from the pests while they are developing their next season's fruit crop. Another light spraying next spring will not come amiss, but this fall spraying will insure the work being done—not neglected next spring when the rush season is on and the field turns the farmer's attention from the orchard.

#### Clean Cultivation Best.

Clean cultivation is better for any orchard, old or young, than growing crops under the trees. The trees need all the plant food and moisture in the average soil.



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Truth gives the following account of "a voice" in the suffrage debate on home rule in the house of commons: "What message," barked Lord Robert Cecil, with flashing eye and menacing forefinger, "am I to take to the women's suffrage meeting from the house of commons?" "Give them our kind regards," was the retort, the profundity of which completely took the wind out of the sails of his lordship's eloquence."

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#### Lucky Star.

"This is the third time you have been here for food," said the woman at the kitchen door to the tramp. "Are you always out of work?" "Yes'm," replied the itinerant. "I guess I was born under a lucky star."

#### Her Dancing Nights.

"Is your wife fond of dancing?" "Yes, especially the nights I prefer to stay at home."—Detroit Free Press.

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